

April 23. 1838.

PHELPS
MSS.

39

Friend Knapp

I went to Needham yesterday, & of my three lectures, ^{there} did ~~no good there~~, the opportunity furnished ~~me~~, in going & coming, for reflection, ^{did me some, &} has brought me to a result which ~~I~~ ^{doubt not} will be gratifying to you & all concerned. I have concluded then to withdraw the "State ^{as it is.}" & to allow the Report to go out ~~without any~~ ~~affair of the kind~~ My reasons are two, 1st that I have no ^{for} ~~wish for~~ a controversy on the subject, though I should not shrink from it were I ~~still~~ of opinion that the interests of the cause required it, & 2^d, & mainly, that I find myself in this case guilty of the very thing for which I blame Garrison. I have thought & do still that the passage in the Report does injustice to the parties implicated, but "waiving" this I go on to blame Garrison for the want of a generous & forgiving spirit in the case. The want of such a spirit I think he has manifested, & for it I think he is to blame. Admitting as he does that such a censure, even if just, was not absolutely demanded by the integrity of the cause, a generous & magnanimous, & forgiving spirit, it seems to

me, must have waived it. Be this however as it may,
this is that for which I chiefly blame him, & yet, strange
inconsistency, I at the same moment fall into the
selfsame fault. I thought before & think now, that the
complaint I prefer is just, but being so, a generous
& magnanimous spirit in the case, I am now
satisfied, should have kept me from preferring it
in the form of the "Statement" to go into the report.
For however just I may regard it, I cannot say
that I think it ~~as~~ ^{is} required by the stern
necessity of fidelity to the integrity of our cause.
Having opposed the adoption of the passage in
question then in the Society & in the Report, I
^{on this point,}
ought to have been content with that, & so far as
informality in bringing forward the Report was
concerned ^{I think} I have sought redress, as I now pro-
pose to do, in seeing to it, that no other report
comes forward in the same way, ^{the character of the Report &} ~~let~~ ^{the cir-}
-circumstances of the case, be what they may. That
I have not been content with this, ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~as much~~

I have thus fallen into the very fault ~~I charge on you~~^{of which I complain,} Garrison, I can account for only by the admission, that personal feeling ^{had} more to do in the case than I was at the time aware. So far then, I frankly confess myself in the wrong, & accordingly as the proper reparation, take back the statement." ~~You will of course not~~
~~publish it, & will my~~ ~~will of course~~
~~not~~

I have not yet seen the other members of the Board whose names were appended, but will do so in the course of the day. I doubt not however they will concur with me in ~~the~~ views here expressed. You will then of course hand this to Mr. G. - charge me with the expenses incurred in the case, & not publish the "Statement" in the Report of a Liberator. Yours truly
A. A. Phelps.

Boston Monday morng Apt. 23d. 1838.

